DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
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STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, incorporating the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1972.

1. BIRTHS

There was a total of 235 births - 122 male and 113 female which included 6 male and 3 female illegitimate births, giving a crude birth rate per thousand population of 17.1 with a locally adjusted rate of 15.7. Stillbirths: rate per thousand total births: 4.

2. DEATHS

There was a total of 110 deaths during this period, details of them are given more fully later in this report. The crude death rate per thousand population is 8.0 with a locally adjusted rate of 10.6.

NOTE: The locally adjusted rate for Births and Deaths is that which statistically would have prevailed if the age and sex distribution of the district's population had been the same as for England and Wales as a whole.

The crude rates are expressed per thousand of the actual population.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Cases Notified
Measles	24
Scarlatina	1

Age Group of Attacks

	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	over 45
Measles	1	5	5	6		7					
Scarlatina						1					

4. CAUSES OF DEATHS

		M	F
B5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
B6(1)	Late Effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	1
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	2
B46(1)	Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	22	12
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	2

	CAUSES OF DEATHS (CONTD.)	M	F
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	9	9
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	5
B31	Influenza	1	-
B32	Pneumonia	1	6
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1
B33(2)	Asthma	-	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	2	2
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-
		59	51

The majority of deaths in our area are caused by heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer, especially lung cancer. This follows the pattern throughout England and Wales.

5. VACCINATIONS HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS

	Totals	
	Completed Primary Courses	Reinforcing Doses
Triple D. T. P.	201	12
Diphtheria/Tetanus	4	269
Diphtheria	-	-
Tetanus	-	2
Sabin (Oral)	211	265
Measles	158	-
Rubella	6	-

6. ESTIMATES FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The estimated mid-1972 population of your district was 13,720.

(a) Domestic Help

Number of Home Helps Employed During the Year	26
Cases Attended 1st January, 1972	43
New Cases During the Year	7
Cases Terminated During the Year	5
Cases Attended 31st December, 1972	45

Breakdown of Cases Attended During the Year:

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	-
(b) Tuberculosis	-
(c) Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm)	49
(d) Others	1

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(b) Nursing Services

Domiciliary Deliveries Notified	12
Hospital Discharges	129

District Nursing Sisters are aligned to Medical Practitioners and the number of patient visits made for Medical Practitioners whose main surgery is within the area is as follows:

Domiciliary	2775
G. P. Clinic	47

(c) Mental Health

Number of persons registered as mentally subnormal	13
Number of persons under supervision in their own homes	10
Number of persons in hospital for the mentally subnormal	3

(d) Welfare Services

	M	F	Total
Number of blind persons in register	6	6	12
Number of partially sighted persons in register	1	2	3
Number of Deaf and Dumb persons in register	1	1	2
Number of Hard of Hearing Persons in register	1	2	3
Number of Physically Handicapped persons in register	19	27	46
Number of persons maintained in residential accommodation	5	7	12
Persons on waiting list for residential accommodation at end of year	8	14	22

(e) Deaths of Infants

	M	F	Total
Under 1 year of age	1	2	3
Under 4 weeks of age	-	2	2
Under 1 week of age	-	2	2

7. MEALS ON WHEELS

The meals on wheels service in each of the four districts so far organised ran smoothly during 1972. I give below a summary of each District's Annual Report:

Wolviston

2,402 meals were served to between 23 and 25 recipients twice weekly.

Students from a local school asked if they could help deliver the meals and soon became very popular with the old people. At Christmas the students provided parcels and two Christmas cakes which were shared among the meals recipients.

Egglescliffe and Preston

The number of meals delivered increased during 1972 from 2,724 to 3,088. Twenty-two people were provided with meals. At Christmas all recipients had a cash present of twenty five pence. Those at home by themselves at this time were provided with a meal by a local donor.

Carlton and Stillington

1,778 meals were delivered in these areas twice weekly to between twenty and twenty-five people.

8. WATER SUPPLY

The supply by the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board and the Hartlepools Water Company has been of satisfactory quality throughout the year and no adverse results were reported.

Following complaints of low water pressure at Nine Acres, Hart Village a booster station was located in the village and a satisfactory supply has now been maintained.

During the year the local authority participated in a scheme put forward by Durham County Council to monitor levels of lead and copper in drinking water supplies, the results of which were as follows:

Premises		First Draw	Normal Supply
"Hurstlea", Carlton	ph	8.2	8.3
	Lead	0.03ppm	0.01ppm
	Copper	0.06ppm	0.01ppm
"The Garage", Long Newton	ph	7.4	7.6
	Lead	0.1ppm	0.05ppm
	Copper	0.04ppm	0.01ppm
1 The Green, Greatham	ph	7.0	7.0
	Lead	0.06ppm	0.06ppm
	Copper	0.02ppm	0.02ppm
29 High Street, Wolviston	ph	7.2	7.6
	Lead	0.07ppm	0.06ppm
	Copper	0.02ppm	0.02ppm

All results were within the World Health Organisation's recommended limits for lead and copper.

9. SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

There are two private slaughterhouses in the Rural District and both fully comply with the requirements of the Act and allied regulations. Hygienic standards are high and the maintenance of structure and equipment is satisfactory.

(i) Meat Inspection

Carcases Inspected and Condemned	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	241	3	663	67
Whole Carcases Condemned	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	-	13	1
Cysticerci				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	5	-
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	1	-	-	-

(ii) Condemned Meat

Slaughterhouses	(i) carcase meat	120lbs
	(ii) offal	279lbs

10. FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the district is 88, in the following trades:

Public Houses	24	
General Dealers	27	
Café	1	(at present closed)
Off-Licence	1	
Butchers	7	
Bakers(retail)	1	
Fish & Chips	5	(1 closed)
Fruiterers	1	
Social Clubs	3	
Confectionary	5	
Chemist	1	
Canteens	8	
Hotel	3	
Milk Depot	1	

11. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following table summarises the registration and inspection of premises under the provisions of the above Act:

Class of Premises	No. registered during year	Total no. registered	No. receiving General Insp.
Offices	-	14	1
Retail Shops	-	25	4
Wholesale Shops or Warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments and canteens	-	11	4
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Totals	Nil	52	10

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act = 15.

No accidents were reported during the year to the local authority.

12. CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 AND 1968

There have been three applications for chimney height approval during the year and in one case alterations were necessary to the original height suggested.

There have been no applications for the prior approval of boiler plant.

Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Apparatus
Undissolved Deposits - Tons per Sq. Mile

Date	Egg.	Still.	Prest.	Great.	Ferric Oxide Egg.	Still.	Prest.	Great.
January	8.20	11.39	6.89	7.44	0.96	1.23	1.68	1.72
February	-	3.31	6.35	4.85	-	0.77	2.44	1.24
March	3.82	0.53	3.71	7.11	0.67	0.20	0.63	2.14
April	-	-	2.44	3.64	-	-	0.47	0.90
May	9.49	0.67	7.35	3.17	1.50	0.13	3.21	0.55
June	7.48	-	9.32	4.52	1.17	-	4.78	1.10
July	4.41	4.54	7.28	3.34	0.70	0.47	2.71	0.57
August	1.50	2.57	3.18	0.37	0.43	0.30	0.40	0.15
September	2.34	1.80	4.04	2.20	0.70	0.37	0.80	0.53
October	3.04	1.07	4.94	1.17	0.20	0.13	1.50	0.13
November	2.34	3.41	5.54	2.00	0.47	0.50	1.50	0.47
December	1.40	2.77	1.52	0.83	0.32	0.38	0.24	0.33

13. HOUSING

1. Qualification Certificates

During the year there were seven applications for qualification certificates: five of which were granted and the remainder were kept under review.

2. Standard Grants

Eleven standard grants were approved to a total grant amount of £3637-25.

3. Improvement Grants

The total number of houses approved for improvement grant was seventy-five and the grants totalled £57,975, 50% up on the previous year.

4. Demolition Orders

No demolition orders were made during the year but proposals in respect of four properties under existing Demolition Orders were accepted by the Council and these premises made fit.

One house, the subject of an Order made in 1971 was subsequently demolished.

5. Informal Demolition

During the year a total of three premises were demolished informally by the owners concerned.

6. Closing Orders

No closing orders were made during the year.

7. Slum Clearance

The Clearance Area at Morrison Street, Lowson Street, Stillington was completed and a Compulsory Purchase Order was made in respect of the 105 properties. In the light of several objections a Public Inquiry was to be held in early 1973.

8. Housing Survey

A complete survey of all of the houses in the Local Authority's area was undertaken, each area being examined systematically. It was discovered that the majority of unfit houses were in the Stillington Clearance Area. The remaining unfit properties were to be dealt with by Demolition Orders in 1973.

In general, it was found that the standard of housing in the area was high, and with the progress of improvement grant work gave encouragement for the raising of this standard still further.

9. Greatham Housing Survey

As a result of the General Survey of housing standards outlined above, a detailed survey of housing in Greatham was undertaken towards the end of the year. It was revealed that 18 houses were unfit for habitation, mostly in The Green and West Row areas. As a result of "time and place" notices under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957 a rehabilitation scheme in respect of the West Row properties was submitted to, and accepted by, the Council. With respect to the remaining properties it was anticipated that formal Demolition Orders would be made in early 1973.

14. CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

There were three prosecutions taken on behalf of the Council under the provisions of the Act for the abandonment of rubbish in the open air. All were successful.

The Council continued to provide a free service for the removal of bulky items of household refuse and the Preston-on-Tees tip for the disposal of other matter by the public themselves.

Eight abandoned vehicles were removed and disposed of under the provisions of the Act.

15. RODENT CONTROL

During the year there were eighty-five complaints of rats and thirty of mice, treatments being carried out where appropriate. In addition, the district's sewerage system was given its annual treatment for rodent eradication. Rats were shown to be infesting sewers at Egglescliffe, Preston, Stillington and Greatham but were controlled with the use of Pinhead Oatmeal and Warfarin 5 poison.

16. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There were four applications for the renewal of licences during the year and upon inspection, the premises were again found to be satisfactory. Licences were granted to all, subject to the normal conditions.

17. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were nine sewage works in operation throughout the district serving the villages of Hart, Elwick, Dalton Piercy, Greatham, Thorpe Thewles, Whitton, Stillington, Carlton/Redmarshall and Long Newton.

The sewage from Wolviston and Newton Bewley is discharged into the Teesside County Borough Council sewerage system and only Elton village is not serviced by main sewers and has to rely on septic tank installations.

The labour force consisted of four men operating two Land Rovers and two trailer pumps.

18. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

In readiness for Local Government re-organisation in 1974 a complete review of Waste Disposal Facilities was undertaken in mid-summer. All private and Local Authority rubbish tips were surveyed in great detail and recorded on file in order to streamline the exchange of information in this respect when functions are transferred.

There have been many minor problems during 1972, but the service has, on a whole, been satisfactorily maintained by the two refuse teams.

Each team consists of five men including a driver, and having a working stint for the whole week which allows all premises to be served once a week.

A second, larger vehicle was ordered in September and it is hoped that this will do much to make the service more efficient by cutting out many of the trips to and from the tip which waste a good deal of time.

19. DISPOSAL OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT, 1972

This legislation became operative during the year and directly affected tip operators and waste disposal contractors. The Act introduced a notification procedure under which those concerned were required to give local authorities and river authorities information as to the nature and quantities of certain waste products arising or being deposited in the area.

The implementation of the Act and the notification procedure has progressed without problem.

20. I wish to thank the Committee for their invaluable help and support, also the staff and other officials, both in the Rural District and the County, for their assistance.

Dorothy D. Nichol, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Alan Yarrow, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

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